



cityNEWS



NEW PROJECTS AROUND AROUND TOWN

Things are happening in Golden Valley, with development on the upswing in the business and housing sectors.

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FALL CLEAN-UP EVENTS

Mighty Tidy Day and the Fall Leaf Drop-Off provide opportunities to dump or donate things you no longer want.

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Council Approves Tax Levy And Budget

On Sept 1, the City Council approved the 2016 proposed tax levy and the 2016-2017 General Fund Budget. The proposed tax levy was set at \$19.9 million, which is a 7.5 percent increase over 2015. This levy, which will be used for the proposed property tax statements that will be mailed in November, cannot be increased but can only be decreased.

The City Council begins the budget process early each year with workshops to discuss goals. Budget review starts in July and continues until Council adopts the final levy Dec 1. Minnesota law requires cities to adopt a budget annually. Golden Valley prepares a biennial budget to help with upcoming financial needs and forecasts, including General Fund expenditures and revenues and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks, Buildings, and Equipment.

Property Values

Taxable market values overall increased 6.29 percent. The median home value increased 2.5 percent after the Homestead Market Value Credit, from \$252,500 to \$258,000. The City portion of taxes on the median home is expected to increase \$3.53 per month.

General Fund Budget

The General Fund Budget covers police; fire and inspections; street, park, and building maintenance; engineering; administration; City Council and manager; and parks and recreation. Total proposed expenditures for 2016 are \$17.8 million.

In order for the City to maintain its newly reconstructed streets, it needs to fund an overlay maintenance program. The 2016 bud-

get includes \$200,000 to help fund the future overlay program. This amount will need to go to \$500,000 in future years. If not, assessments will be needed to help fund the program.

Transfers increased by \$75,000 to the Park Improvement Fund and by \$75,000 to the Building Fund. The Park Improvement Fund finances improvements to the parks, such as playground equipment and parking lot repairs. The Building Fund finances improvements to the 10 City buildings and seven park shelters.

The City participates in several cost-saving strategies, such as a State consortium to buy fuel, equipment, and vehicles; membership in a multi-city computer consortium; cooperative sharing of equipment and services with other cities; and joint dispatching services with Hennepin County.

Debt Levy

The Debt Levy covers payments on already-issued bonds for the Pavement Management Program (PMP), vehicles and equipment, and tax abatement. For 2016, the debt levy increases 7.13 percent. Council will annually review the scheduled improvements for each remaining PMP geographic area and their impact on the additional levies for bonded debt.

The 2016–2017 proposed General Fund Budget is available online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget.

Questions about the budget or your proposed property tax? Contact City Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@goldenvalleymn.

Utility Rate Increase Will Fund 36-Inch Water Main Repair

Starting Oct 1, water rates will increase (30 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used) to help finance a \$5.3 million Joint Water Commission (JWC) project to repair the 36-inch water main that delivers water from Minneapolis to the JWC Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope. Costs of the project will be shared by the three Cities based on their ratio of water use.

Twice in the last two years the 50-plus-year-old concrete water main burst open under the streets of Robbinsdale, flooding streets, homes, and businesses and jeopardizing the water supply for homes and businesses in three communities. The JWC decided to replace the pipe before more breaks could occur at ever increasing costs. Work on the project began this spring and should be completed in the fall. Get details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/watersewer/water/index.php.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/

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If you have questions about the new rates, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8013.

City Election Is Nov 3

For the Nov 3 local general election, you may only vote in person at your assigned polling place or vote absentee ahead of time. Polling places are listed on page 16.

Absentee Voting Available

Absentee voting means voting by mail or in person before Election Day instead of at the polling place. Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election. Under a 2014 state law change, voters no longer have to state a specified reason in order to receive and cast an absentee ballot.

This year, the City is participating in a pilot program with Hennepin County in an effort to streamline the absentee ballot process. As part of the program, Hennepin County will be responsible for the administration of absentee ballots processed through the mail. The City will continue to administer in-person absentee voting. You still need to fill out an application to vote absentee.

In Person

You may apply and vote at Golden Valley City Hall during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm). Extended absentee voting hours are available on the Saturday and Monday before the election (Oct 31, 10 am to 3 pm, and Nov 2 until 5 pm).

Voter Registration

You will need to register if you have never registered to vote. You will need to re-register if you have changed your name, moved to a different address (even if only your apartment number has changed), or if you have not voted in four years. Pre-registration for the general election closes Oct 13 at 5 pm.

To register, complete a Minnesota Voter Registration Application by mail, in person, or online at www.mnvotes.org. You may also

Online

You can apply online through the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.mnvotes.org. Hennepin County will mail the ballot directly to you once the application is completed.

By Mail

You can mail, fax, or email your completed absentee ballot application to Hennepin County Elections.

- Mail: Hennepin County Elections - PSL 012 Government Center, 300 6th St S, Minneapolis, MN 55487
- Fax: 612-348-2151
- Email: hc.vote@hennepin.us

Hennepin County will mail the ballot directly to you once the application is completed.

Questions? Call the City at 763-593-8000. Voting and election information is available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/index.php.

To check if you're already registered to vote, go to www.mnvotes.org.

register on Election Day at your polling place with required information to prove your residency. Visit www.mnvotes.org or the Golden Valley website (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/voting.php) for a list of the requirements for Election Day registration.

If you have questions about elections or voting, contact City Clerk Kris Luedke at 763-593-8012.

City Imposes New Regulation On Solicitors

The City of Golden Valley receives numerous complaints each year about people who sell goods or solicit donations door-to-door throughout the community. In response, a new City ordinance requires that anyone wanting to solicit in Golden Valley apply for a permit and receive a photo ID from the City showing eligibility to do business door-to-door.

The permit looks like a small badge and identifies the valid year, individual/company name, and City seal. Residents are encouraged to ask solicitors to show their permit at the door. If solicitors seem to be operating in violation of City ordinance, residents are encouraged to call 911.

If you have questions about the new solicitors ordinance, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079.



Fall Leaf Drop-Off Starts Oct 31

Golden Valley's Fall Leaf Drop-Off provides residents a place to dispose of their leaves at no charge during three late-fall weekends.

The drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway becomes a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave S and exit on Western Ave. City personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where other personnel will help residents unload or de-bag leaves.

Guidelines

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, utility bill, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must untie leaf bags, help de-bag their leaves at the site, and take the bags home for reuse or disposal. No brush or garden waste will be accepted.
- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. A parking area will be provided for residents to untie their bags before getting in line.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must help unload their leaves at the site. (Tip: If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload,

help the workers lift the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the drop-off area.)

If you miss the Leaf Drop-Off, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the Yellow Pages or online for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101st Ave N) accepts leaves, brush, and grass for a fee. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-8971 or visit www.mgyardwaste.com.

If you have questions about yard waste, call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

2015 Fall Leaf Drop-Off

SAT, OCT 31

8 am–1 pm

FRI, NOV 6

8 am–3 pm
(note new end time)

SAT, NOV 7

8 am–1 pm

SAT, NOV 14

7 am–1 pm


@ Brookview Park
(south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave, enter from Winnetka Ave)

Raking Blitz Helps Those In Need

Need help raking? From **Oct 23–Nov 6**, volunteers will be assigned to help Golden Valley residents age 60+ who can no longer keep up with their fall yard maintenance. Volunteers will rake, bag leaves, and take them to the curb. Residents must provide recyclable/compostable leaf bags and arrange for disposal. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Raking Blitz is a cooperative program with Senior Community Services' HOME Program, Calvary Lutheran Church, and the City of Golden Valley.

To schedule leaf-raking service: Contact HOME at 952-746-4046 or home@seniorcommunity.org by October 1. Raking

dates and times will be arranged with the individual homeowners, based on volunteer availability.

To volunteer: Groups and individuals are welcome. Choose the date(s) and time(s), starting mid-October (depending on weather) until the snow stays. Contact the HOME volunteer coordinator at 952-767-7894 or scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org by October 1 to schedule. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring gloves, rakes, and any other equipment needed. 

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 28
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
New Year's 2016	Sat, Jan 2

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

Dump It Or Donate It At Mighty Tidy Day

Annual Event For GV Residents Is Oct 3

Dispose of mattresses, sofas, broken bicycles, tires, old appliances, computers, televisions, and more at the 11th annual **Mighty Tidy Day, Sat, Oct 3, 8 am to 1 pm at Brookview Park**. Donation opportunities are also available for furniture, household goods, personal care products, and non-perishable food items. **No hazardous waste (motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) is accepted** (see box below for list of items and fees).

Enter Brookview Parkway from the north along Winnetka Ave (no entrance will be allowed from Western Ave). Proof of residency will be required at the entrance. Workers will collect the appropriate fee by cash or check and direct you to one of three lots (see box below).

Donation Station

Bring gently used furniture and household items for donation to Bridging, a non-profit organization that provides people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality goods to stabilize and improve lives while effectively using community resources.

Bridging needs bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture and household goods such as kitchenware, linens, bedding, lamps, small appliances, etc. A detailed list of needed items is available at www.bridging.org. Donations are tax-deductible at the fair market value of each item.

Bridging reserves the right to refuse donations and is unable to accept office furniture, large appliances, computers, audio


equipment, sporting goods, infant/child items & toys, lawn/patio furniture and equipment, musical instruments, or holiday items.

PRISM will be accepting donations of non-perishable food and personal care products. A detailed list of needed items is available at <http://prismmpls.org/>. Donations are tax-deductible.

Paper Shredding

Safe and secure destruction of personal documents is one of the best ways to combat identity theft. Bring papers loose in a paper bag (boxes will be returned to you). Staples and paper clips are OK. No binders or plastic material (computer disks, CDs, etc) will be accepted. Available for residents only and not businesses or other commercial enterprises.

Why Participate?

Aside from the benefits of recycling materials instead of landfilling them, some of these materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment, so proper disposal is important. During the 2014 Mighty Tidy Day, the City collected 15.06 tons of bulk waste, 11,755 lbs of electronics, 9,726 lbs of paper, 299 lbs of batteries, 532 fluorescent bulbs, 117 appliances, and 78 tires. 

If you have questions about *Mighty Tidy Day*, call Public Works at 763-593-8030.

MIGHTY TIDY DAY Disposal Costs

LOT 1

Paper Shredding: Free

Donations: Free

Bridging is accepting donations of gently used furniture and household goods, such as kitchenware, bedding and linens, lamps, small appliances, etc.

PRISM is accepting donations of non-perishable food and personal care products.

LOT 2

Batteries: Free

Fluorescent Bulbs

- CFL (household): \$1/each
- 4-foot long or less: \$1/each
- Longer than 4 feet: \$2/each
- U-bent: \$2/each

Electronics/Computers

- Non-Television: \$5/each
- Peripherals (anything that attaches to electronic devices but is not a power source): \$1/each
- Computer Monitors/TVs
 - CRT: \$15/each
 - Flat Panel: \$10/each

Appliances

- If one typical person can carry it (microwave, dehumidifier, mini-refrigerator): \$10/each
- Other (dishwasher, dryer, freezer, range/stove, refrigerator, washing machine, water heater): \$20/each

Scrap Metal

- Clean metal: Free
 - Other (bikes, etc): \$5/each

LOT 3

Miscellaneous Items

- Mattress/Box Spring/Chair: \$15
- Couch: \$20
- Misc: \$15/cubic yard
- Construction debris, lumber, etc: \$18/cubic yard

Tires

- With rims: \$7/each
- Without rims: \$5/each



Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Fall Recreation Activities catalog or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Pre-School Playtime—Fridays starting Oct 2, 10–11:30 am, Brookview. \$2/child; \$15/10-visit pass.

Cookies and Canvas (ages 7–12)—Oct 15, 1–3 pm, Brookview, \$22.

Golf & Lawn Bowling (ages 7–16)—Fri, Oct 16, 9 am–2:30 pm, Brookview Golf Course \$24.

Adult

Daytime Yoga—Tues, Oct 6–Nov 30, 11 am–noon, Brookview, \$64.

Boot Camp—Thur, Oct 8–Dec 17 (no class 11/26), 6:30–7:30 pm, Davis, \$40.

Watercolor Basics—Thur, Oct 15–Nov 19, 6:30–8:30 pm, Brookview, \$55.

Seniors

Joy of Painting® The Bob Ross® Method—Fall Scene: Sat, Oct 10, 1–4:30 pm; Winter Scene: Sat, Nov 14, 1–4:30 pm. Brookview, \$60/residents, \$65/non-residents.

Defensive Driving 8-hour First-Timers Course—Sat, Oct 24, 9 am–5 pm, Brookview, \$18/person. Register in advance at 651-291-9150 with a Visa or MasterCard.

Medicare Advantage & Medicare Part D Presentation—Wed, Oct 28, 10 am, Brookview, \$2 at door. Register by Oct 26 at 763-512-2339.

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.

Brookview Community Center Decision Is Near

The Golden Valley City Council is getting closer to finalizing plans for proposed construction of a new Brookview Community Center, and a decision to potentially move forward could be made by the end of the year, says Rick Birno, director of parks and recreation.

In July, the City hosted two open houses to present initial design concepts and cost estimates for public input. Information gathered at those meetings and through an online public comment process included recommendations to add an indoor play area to the design. At its August Council/Manager meeting, City Council directed staff to prepare three options for future consideration: 1) a \$15 million building without an indoor play area, 2) an \$18 million building with an indoor play area, and 3) a \$15 million building that downsizes other areas to include the indoor play area.

“Most of the large-scale decisions have been made, but nothing is for certain at this point,” Birno says. “We only have conceptual designs and estimated budgets. The Council could still decide to not approve any of the current options.”

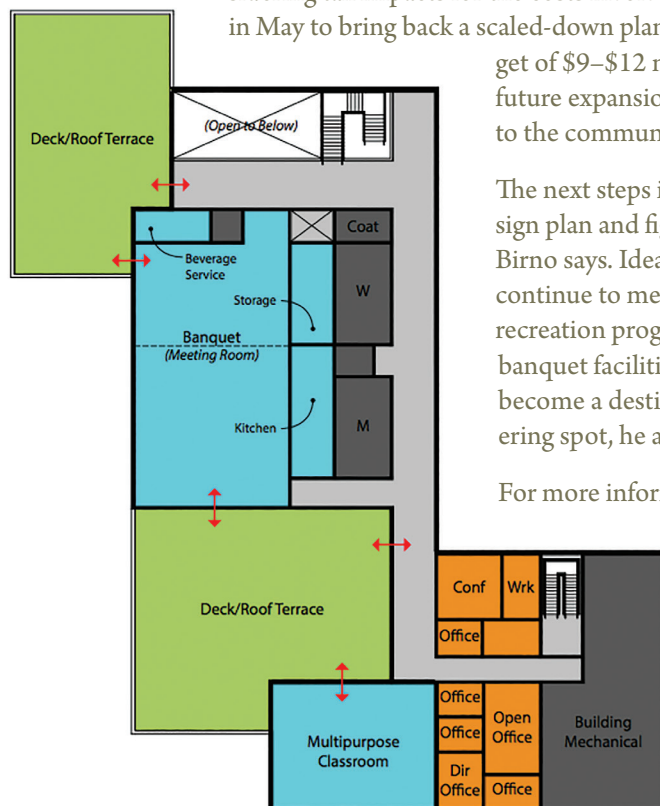
Brookview’s original building dates to the 1920s, when it was a private golf club. After years of expansions and remodeling, the City must decide whether it continues investing in maintenance of an aging structure or if it invests in a new facility that serves the needs of today’s Golden Valley.

Ongoing maintenance expenses will become a burden for the City, Birno says. Also, the current building does not meet accessibility standards or current building codes.

Last year a citizen task force worked with City staff and project consultants to study the issues, then presented a recommendation to the Council in December 2014. After considering tax impacts for the costs involved, the Council directed staff in May to bring back a scaled-down plan with an approximate budget of \$9–\$12 million and the potential for future expansion. That plan was presented to the community at the July open houses.

The next steps include approving a final design plan and figuring out financing options, Birno says. Ideally, the new building would continue to meet Golden Valley’s needs for recreation programming, meeting spaces, banquet facilities, and golf customers, and become a destination as a community gathering spot, he adds.

For more information or to follow the process online, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/brookview/task-force.php.



One second floor concept for Brookview

Burt Retires; Golden Valley Welcomes Cruikshank As New City Manager

For the first time in 13 years, Golden Valley welcomes a new City manager. Tim Cruikshank stepped up to the plate Sept 9 after Tom Burt retired Sept 1.



Tom Burt

Tom Burt says he's enjoyed every moment he had working for local government.

"It's the career I'd always wanted, and I accomplished it," he says.

Burt accomplished another lifelong goal when he retired Sept 1 after more than 33 years in municipal govern-

ment service. He's looking forward to time with his grandchildren, taking care of aging parents, and hopefully some travel.

"And then when everything calms down, I'll probably volunteer at the VA (Veteran's Administration) hospital," he says. "Other than that, it's whatever the day brings. My project list just keeps getting longer."

Service careers run in his family, Burt says. When he was growing up, his mother worked for the City of Bloomington, and his stepfather was a police officer there. He remembers riding his

Stingray bicycle to City Hall to visit. Those early impressions led Burt to his lifelong career, and now his oldest son carries on the tradition as a police officer in Carver County.

Burt believes working in government is about giving service to people, and he's glad to have been a part of it all. People come forward and get involved and affect change, he says, and although that may slow the process, the system works and people have a voice.

In that respect, he believes Golden Valley is special.

"This is the best job I've had because of the passion of the people for the community," Burt says. "I've never seen engagement like this in any other community where I've worked."

Burt started his career in Bloomington and Brooklyn Park before being named to the top spots in St Anthony, Rosemount, and finally, Golden Valley.

"The thing I'll miss most is the everyday interaction—the day-to-day problem solving and sharing stories with coworkers," he says. "It's such a good group of people."

Tim Cruikshank

Tim Cruikshank stepped into the City manager position Sept 9, replacing Tom Burt, who held the job since 2002.

"It's a great opportunity to be a part of such a premier community in the metro area," Cruikshank says.

That's not to say he didn't have reservations about leaving his old job as Anoka City manager, a position held for 14 years.

"I had mixed emotions. I developed a lot of good relationships and friendships in Anoka, making it difficult to leave, but at the same time I'm incredibly excited about moving on to Golden Valley and building new relationships here," he says.

City government has been a passion of his for decades.

"I love it. When you work in local government, you really get to know the residents and businesses on a personal level," Cruikshank says. "You're able to have a direct and almost immediate impact on people's lives."

Cruikshank holds a bachelor's degree in government from St John's University and a master's degree in public administration from Hamline University. He has been Anoka's city manager since 2001. Before that, he served as Minnetrista's city administrator (1998-2001), Lauderdale's city administrator (1995-98), Mounds View's assistant to the city administrator (1991-95), and IGR office and office of public affairs intern for the city of Minneapolis (1990-91).

Cruikshank, who grew up in Maple Lake, MN, currently lives in Plymouth with his daughter, a sophomore at Wayzata High School. ~



CenterPoint Energy's project is under construction on a vacant portion of its property at Douglas Dr and Golden Valley Rd.

Development Update

New Projects Abound Around Town

With the economy rising out of recession, development in Golden Valley's business and housing sectors has kicked into high gear.

"The housing market has been strong and spreading outward from the core cities," says Jason Zimmerman, Golden Valley planning manager. "We have to plan for a certain amount of population increase due to this growth. But we're not having to, as a City, go out and purchase land for development. The market is taking care of that for us."

In addition to an increasing demand for housing, Golden Valley is also facing an aging population made up of people who want to stay in the community but can no longer care for themselves at home, leading to a need for more assisted living facilities.

Construction on most of the following projects will be completed sometime next year.



CenterPoint Energy Douglas Dr and Golden Valley Rd

CenterPoint has started construction on an office and warehouse, which will include a central business office and conference rooms, near the Douglas Dr/Golden Valley Rd intersection where the new roundabout will be. CenterPoint is also relocating some of its service operations to this area. This redevelopment will include a lot of new landscaping and pond installations, Zimmerman says. "It will hide the propane tanks from view and add a nice presence to the corner."

Cornerstone Creek Northeast quadrant of Hwy 55 and Hwy 169

Cornerstone Creek, a 45-unit building for adults with developmental disabilities, will be built in the NE quadrant of Hwy 55 and Hwy 169. It will include a community room used to host events for residents who live in the building as well as events for the community at large.





hello.

Northeast quadrant of Hwy 55 and Hwy 169

Right across the street from Cornerstone Creek, the vacant Golden Valley bowling alley was demolished in August to make way for a 172-unit multi-family development. Dubbed hello., the building will feature a level of underground parking, a second-level amenity deck with a pool, and a sixth-floor observation deck looking toward downtown Minneapolis.

Assisted Living Complex Northeast quadrant of Hwy 55 and Hwy 169

At 9000 Golden Valley Rd (the location of the old Wendy's restaurant), a 96-unit partial-assisted living complex for seniors will be developed by Schuett Companies. Schuett Companies will then move its headquarters into the new building, Zimmerman says.



Liberty Crossing Medicine Lake Rd and Winnetka Ave N

Liberty Crossing is the large project being developed at the corner of Medicine Lake Rd and Winnetka Ave, replacing a car wash, VFW, restaurant, and industrial building. The project will include a 184-unit apartment building and 63 townhome units. Also, since there's been a history of flooding at that intersection, the developers will be using some innovative storm water management techniques, including underground vaults, to help capture the water. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) will help pay for the improvements, which will benefit Medicine Lake Rd by helping reduce water levels during occasional flooding, Zimmerman says.

Three•Nine•Four Apartments Northwest quadrant of I-394 and Hwy 100

The Three•Nine•Four Apartments, a 303-unit apartment building, will be under construction this fall at the northwest quadrant of Hwy 100 and I-394, replacing the Mayfair Apartments and a MnDOT parcel. A 107-unit senior assisted living building is planned on the site as a future phase.



Other developments that have been approved but have yet to start construction include Laurel Ponds, featuring 24 detached townhome units at the corner of Pennsylvania Ave and Laurel Ave; the Xenia Apartments, a 372-unit building to be constructed at the northwest corner of Xenia Ave and Golden Hills Dr; and Central Park West, a mixed-use development straddling the St Louis Park border in the southwest quadrant of I-394 and Hwy 100. The City website features an interactive map of current development/redevelopment activity in the community. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/about/maps.php and click on "Current Developments Map." 

GVPD Joins Place-Of-Last Drink Data Collection Effort

If you're walking home and look inebriated, don't be surprised if a Golden Valley police officer stops to ask where you had your last drink.

The Golden Valley police have begun to collect "place of last drink" data to figure out if any establishments in town may be overserving.

Legally, if you're obviously intoxicated (slurring your words, stumbling), a bar is supposed to cut you off from any more alcohol, says Stacy Carlson, Golden Valley police chief. Some establishments follow this rule better than others, but before officers began keeping records, it was almost impossible to know which businesses might be violating the law.

"Public safety is trying to strike a balance between letting people responsibly drink and holding establishments responsible for overserving," Carlson says.

Though technically a bar can be held liable for any injury or DUIs that results from overserving, it's very hard to prove said liability, Carlson says. However, if after gathering data of officers see a troubling pattern with certain establishments, that could make it harder for the businesses to get liquor licenses renewed.

The goal is to cut down on the amount of alcohol-impaired driving caused by providing alcohol to minors or overserving, Carlson says. But, she adds, this is all a precaution. Currently, there is no business in Golden Valley under suspicion of overserving.

Golden Valley isn't the only city to record "place of last drink" (POLD) data.

The initiative was developed in 2014 by Partnership for Change, a local coalition of youth, parents, schools, law enforcement, and community groups. Participating police departments collect data and release POLD reports through-



out the year. The POLD online data system is available to be used by any law enforcement department in Minnesota. Visit partnership4change.org for more information.

Having A Drink On The Town? Watch Your Intake

Generally, a person can have one or two drinks and still be under the legal limit, but if you're going to be driving, it's best to err on the side of caution.

"When drinking, most people think they're far less drunk than they actually are," says Police Chief Stacy Carlson, adding that even a legal amount of alcohol will slow down your reaction times and impair judgment.

Her advice? If you're planning to drink at all, don't drive. If you must drive, remember, you can hit that legal limit faster than you think, so drink responsibly. 🍷

Fire Safety Tips For Fire Education Month

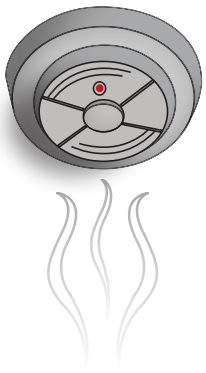
October is National Fire Prevention Month, the perfect time to brush up on fire safety and make sure you're doing all you can to protect you and your family from harm.

Getting Educated

It may sound strange, but extinguishing fires isn't a firefighter's first duty, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. A firefighter's first duty is to prevent fires from occurring at all, and the most effective way to do that is through education.

Last October, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) gave station tours to more than 300 children and provided fire safety education to another 300 people in the community. Firefighters plan to make a similar education blitz this year by conducting fire drills and safety talks at schools, day cares, and commercial properties throughout the area.

This will also be the 27th anniversary of the GVFD's annual school fire drills. Each year, firefighters visit schools in Golden Valley to conduct fire evacuation drills and offer feedback to staff members on their performance. They also talk with around 300 kids about fire safety and prevention basics, emphasizing the importance of smoke alarms, escape plans, and fire extinguishers. Often, kids will take what they've learned home to their parents, Baker says, which is good, since most adults need a fire safety reminder too. Here's that reminder.



Smoke Alarms

Making sure your smoke alarms have properly working batteries can and will save lives.

If the alarm doesn't beep when you press and hold the test button, or if it gives a choked chirp sound, that means it needs a new battery. Often alarms start chirping on their own when the battery gets low, but don't count on it.

"Fires grow so quickly, and the smoke can be so toxic, you can take one breath, and that's enough to kill you," Baker says. "Furthermore, without an alarm sounding, it may take you a few extra seconds to wake up, and by then parts of your home may be impassable."

Three out of five home fire deaths happened in properties without working smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. In one quarter of these deaths, smoke alarms were present but failed to operate.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends replacing smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. To deter-

mine the age of your smoke alarm, check the back of the device for date of manufacture.

Escape Plans

The GVFD encourages people to create and practice a fire escape plan and decide on a meeting place outside the home.

"One of the first things we do at a fire is ask if everyone is out of the house," Baker says. "If everyone is out and accounted for, then we can focus on putting out the fire. If everyone isn't accounted for, we must go into rescue mode."



Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are necessities in every safe home—they can keep small fires from getting bigger or give you the opportunity to open a path of escape.


To deal with all common fires, the GVFD recommends buying a professional extinguisher (labeled ABC), five pounds or larger, with a metal valve assembly. Check hardware or home improvement stores. Be sure to install fire extinguishers in a readily accessible location near an escape route, above the reach of children, and away from stoves and heating appliances.

When using the fire extinguisher, stand six to eight feet from the fire, then make a PASS: P—Pull the pin to unlock the extinguisher's operating lever; A—Aim low, pointing the extinguisher's nozzle at the base of the fire; S—Squeeze the lever below the handle to discharge the extinguisher; S—Sweep the discharge from side to side at the base of the fire until fire is out. If it reignites, make another PASS.

When using the extinguisher, always remember to keep the exit to your back. Never let the fire get between you and the exit. Also, make sure someone is evacuating the building and calling 911 (you can't do both).



More Information

Learn more about fire prevention and safety at www.goldenvalleyfire.com. While you're there, you can also look into becoming a firefighter yourself. 

City Hopes To Curb Clogging Culprits: Fats, Oils, And Grease

Extra Care Will Save Thousands In Sewer Maintenance Costs



Grease-clogged sewer pipe

In light of approximately \$100,000 a year spent so City maintenance crews can clean out blocked sewer mains, Golden Valley passed an ordinance in 2014 to help curb clogging culprits such as fats, oils, and grease from entering the system.

The ordinance calls for all businesses that serve food to install a grease-trap or interceptor, which works as a reservoir for collecting grease and oils that would otherwise go down the drain. The traps and interceptors, like septic tanks, allow water to pass through while separating harmful material which can be disposed of later as garbage or compost.

The ordinance applies to any establishment or building that serves food or has a public kitchen. It will help cut down on the City's sanitary sewer maintenance costs while also benefiting restaurants by preventing expensive sewer clogs on their end, says RJ Kakach, Golden Valley engineer.

"The problem arises when hot oils get poured down the drain and go from a liquid state to a solid, which causes blockages in the sewer system," Kakach says.

Golden Valley modeled the ordinance on those passed a few years ago in Duluth and Bloomington, but goes one step further in that it requires existing food establishments to install an interceptor system, not just new businesses. City officials will work with establishments over the next few years to get all businesses in compliance.

For Residents: How To Avoid Drain Pain

The No. 1 way to avoid sewer backups is by simply watching what you put down the drains, says Joe Hansen, utilities maintenance supervisor.

The more solids that go down the drain, the more blockages that will occur, and the more money you'll have to spend unclogging. In fact, anything but water will contribute to clogs over time, even soap.

Pipes are like arteries. Grease and soap residue build up like plaque. Bacon grease, peanut butter, butter, frying oils, and similar substances will harden and stick to the sides of the drain, trapping other items.

So, store grease in a container near the stove until it hardens, then place in the trash. Dry-wipe remaining grease from dishes. Use the garbage disposal sparingly, and flush with plenty of water. When possible, put food scraps in the garbage or compost.

Also, never flush anything but toilet paper. Toilet paper is made to dissolve in the sewer system. Everything else just clogs it up. Flushable wipes may be the biggest culprit.


If you've had a history of backups, a routine sewer cleaning is recommended. Even if you haven't had many back-ups, a sewer check-up once every two years doesn't hurt, Hansen says.

When Your Sewer Backs Up

With a sewer backing up and waste water slowly rising in your basement, your first instinct may be to call the City. While you should call the City first, chances are there is a clog in the line from your house to the main line. This line, known as the lateral, is the responsibility of the property owner.

Because the City performs regular sanitary sewer maintenance, only a small percentage of sewer backups in Golden Valley are caused by problems in City sewer lines (such as tree roots growing into the sewer). The City of Golden Valley is not responsible or liable for a sewer blockage unless there is a clear demonstration of negligence on its part (though it's still important to notify the City when a backup occurs, so workers can check if it's a problem on the City's end).

Property owners are responsible for cleaning and repairing the sewer service from their homes or businesses to the sewer main, including the connection at the main. They are also responsible for making sure sump pumps, foundation drains, and roof gutter down-spouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer system.

If you have a sewer back up, call 763-593-8030 between 8 am and 4:30 pm; after hours call 763-593-8079. If you have specific questions about the sanitary sewer system, contact Golden Valley Utilities Maintenance at 763-593-8038. 

City Changes Administrative Citation And Appeal Process

The Golden Valley City Council recently approved several changes to the way City inspectors can enforce City code violations. This new and expanded administrative citation process is designed to resolve City code violations outside the court system.

“The courts are not always sympathetic to local violation issues,” says Fire Chief John Crelly. “And complaints can take many months to get through the system.”

The new process gives the City more leverage to use fee penalties to gain compliance and keep violations from rising to the level of criminal offense.

Although the City’s property maintenance inspectors already had the ability to write civil citations, the new process gives other staff that ability as well. Before, the City could only turn to the court system to gain compliance.

Zoning violations and property maintenance violations are not the same thing, explains Dave Gustafson, City inspector, so allowing other staff to write citations for zoning-specific complaints streamlines the process.

For example, the City’s top five zoning violations include vehicles parked on the lawn, improper trailer/boat/snowmobile/RV parking, equipment/vehicles stored in commercial parking lots, improper dumpster storage, and illegal home occupations.

The City’s top five property maintenance violations include accumulated garbage/debris/litter, improperly displayed house numbers, failing gutters/downspouts, accumulated brush/branches/yard waste, and failing driveways.

The goal of these changes is not to generate more citations, but to make the process better and fairer for everyone, Crelly says.

“It’s a tool, and a better tool than we had before, but we always try to work with our residents to address issues and find a positive outcome,” he says.

The fees for non-compliance are \$100 for the first citation, \$250 for the second citation, \$500 for the third citation, and \$500 for a fourth citation. If there’s still no compliance after the fourth administrative citation, and no appeal, the issue will then be referred to the City attorney for criminal charges.

The appeals process for a violation has also changed, says Rick Hammerschmidt, deputy fire chief. While citation appeals were heard by the City Council in the past, they will now be reviewed by a third-party hearing officer. The ultimate goal is to work with residents to achieve compliance and avoid the administrative citation and appeal process as much as possible.

If you have questions about the City’s administrative citation process, contact City Clerk Kris Luedke at 763-593-8012 or kluedke@goldenvalleymn.gov.



Second Round Of Property Maintenance Inspections Underway

Golden Valley property maintenance inspectors began another round of city-wide property inspections Sept 1.

The focus is on issues that can be seen from the street. Bad siding, storm damaged roofs, broken windows, unkempt yards, illegal building extensions, peeling paint, rickety decks—whatever it is, Golden Valley’s approach is to help residents become aware of problems and take care of them before they get out of hand.

The City’s goal is to partner with homeowners to find and fix maintenance concerns before they lead to neighbor complaints and to protect against deteriorating housing.

This year, the City updated its property maintenance code to include international standards (used by most of Golden Valley’s neighboring cities) that will help inspectors gain compliance when dealing with problem properties.

For more resources on property maintenance, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov and click on the “Your Home and Yard” link. If you have questions about the inspections process, call 763-593-8057.



Pedestrian Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

In the midst of back-to-school season, it's imperative for drivers, bikers, and pedestrians to heed the dangers of the road and take appropriate precautions. More than 330 child pedestrians died in 2013 and 13,000 were injured, according to AAA, North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization. Pedestrian safety is everyone's responsibility. The following guidelines (from Minnesota Statute 169.21) will help you be more aware.

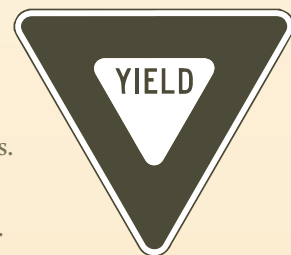
Don't Pass A School Bus With Lights Flashing

- It is illegal to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload students. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop when they encounter a bus with yellow flashing lights, which means the bus is preparing to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they start driving again.
- Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, but no children are present can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail. Passing the bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, and children are present, or passing the bus on the right side, can result in up to a \$3,000 fine and/or one year in jail.



Yield to Pedestrians

- Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks and intersections. Remember, intersections are legal crosswalks even if they are not marked. Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with pedestrians.
- Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders who may approach crosswalks more swiftly than pedestrians.
- Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross. Neglecting to stop for a crosswalk patrol that is extending the stop flag can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
- Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.



Safety Tips For Bikers

- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.
- Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.
- Obey vehicular traffic signals and laws on the roadways.
- Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads, and sidewalks. Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.



Safety Tips For Pedestrians

- Always cross at marked crosswalks or intersections. You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.
- Obey pedestrian signals and look left-right-left to make sure the road is clear in both directions before crossing. If a vehicle approaches, make eye contact with the driver to be sure s/he sees you before you cross. Look before crossing in front of stopped vehicles. Do not cross just because a driver waves you on.



UPCOMING events

PHOTO BY SARAH O'ROURKE, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2015

Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 3 | 8 am–1 pm (see page 4)

Neighborhood Watch Annual Meeting

Sat, Oct 10 | 1 pm

GVPD Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/watch/index.php.

HRC Conversations:

Human Trafficking Awareness

Thurs, Oct 22 | 6:30–8 pm

City Hall Council Chambers

More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights/hrc-conversations.php

Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Three Oct & Nov weekends (see page 4)

Fall Raking Blitz

Oct 23–Nov 6, (see page 4)

That Halloween Party & Costume Contest

Fri, Oct 23 | 6–8:30 pm

Crystal Community Center

Grades 6-7, \$8 before Oct 16, \$15 at the door.

Public Safety Open House For Families

With Special Needs

Sat, Oct 24 | 11 am–1 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building

More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/openhouse-familieswithspecialneeds/index.php.

General Election

Tue, Nov 3 (see pages 3 and 16)

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Wed, Nov 11 | 9:30 am

Westphal American Legion, 3600 France Ave N, Robbinsdale

Featuring guest speaker Sgt Marcus Kuboy, an Army medic who survived a roadside bombing in Iraq. Sponsored by the City of Golden Valley and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Quad Communities.

GVPD Toys For Tots Collection

Starts Dec 2 | Golden Valley Police Department

Annual GVPD toy collection culminates in a parade to the KARE 11 Toys For Tots drop site. Bring new, unwrapped toys as well as gifts for older kids and teens.

SUPPER WITH SANTA

Fri, Dec 4 | 6–7:15 pm

Brookview Community Center

Pizza, music, and a visit from Santa! Ages 2 and up with adult. Must pre-register (\$10/child, \$5/adult dinner).

Mailbox to the North Pole

Dec 4–18 | Brookview Community Center

Drop off letters at Santa Claus' special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox at Brookview Community Center. Include a full name and address so Santa can reply.

More event information at: www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar

GHOULISH GOLF

Saturdays and Sundays in October, plus MEA break
Brookview Par 3

The spirits are summoning you to Brookview for a spooky round of golf. Try out the Haunted Hill, the Batwing Bunker, the Sand Witch Trap, and more. Big pumpkin-faced putting cups on the greens will make it fun for kids and beginners. Free rental clubs and golf balls available. Fee: \$12.50/person or \$7/person if you're wearing any Halloween or orange clothing or are in costume. Book a tee time at 763-512-2330.

Visit www.brookviewgolf.com/par3/ghoulish-golf.html





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Golden Valley, MN 55427

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763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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Voting Locations

To find your voting location for the Nov 3 election, go to: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. You must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm.

Precinct 1a

NE Fire Station,
3700 Golden Valley Rd

Precinct 2a

Valley Presbyterian Church,
3100 North Lilac Dr

Precinct 3c

Meadowbrook School,
5430 Glenwood Ave

Precinct 4

LOGIS, 5750 Duluth St

Precinct 5c

SE Fire Station,
400 Turners Crossroad S

Precinct 6

Golden Valley City Hall,
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Precinct 7b

Sandburg Learning Center,
2400 Sandburg Lane

Precinct 8b

Brookview Community Center,
200 Brookview Parkway

Eight File For Three City Council Seats


Eight Golden Valley residents have filed to run for three Golden Valley City Council seats for the Nov 3 election. Six are running for the two City Council seats and two are running for the position of Mayor.

The four-year terms of Council members Joanie Clausen and Steve Schmidgall are up Dec 31, 2015, as is the four-year term of Mayor Shep Harris. All three are running for re-election.

Carol Barry, Hattie Bonds, Joanie Clausen, Steve Schmidgall, Andy Schuler, and Paul Scofield, are candidates for the two Council seats.

Shep Harris and Marti Micks are candidates for Mayor.

More information about the candidates is available on the Minnesota Secretary of State website at <http://candidates.sos.state.mn.us/>.

For more information about the election, see the article on page 3 or click to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections. Official election results will be posted on the City website as soon as they become available. Questions? Contact City Clerk Kris Luedke 763-593-8012. 

City Council Candidates

Mayoral

Shep Harris
2425 Zane Ave N
612-219-8531

Marti Micks
90 Louisiana Ave S
763-546-7930

City Council

Carol Barry
2936 Kyle Ave N
763-742-9009

Hattie Bonds
425 Sunny Ridge Lane
612-382-2412

Joanie Clausen
2516 Lee Ave N
763-350-2314

Steve Schmidgall
6534 Olympia St
612-419-8142

Andy Schuler
1821 York Ave N
763-670-9253

Paul Scofield
327 Turner's Crossroad S
612-202-8922



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This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

